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ARMENIAN REFUGEE REPORTS ON RUMANIA

The following information was freely given to us by an Armenian who recently fled to Athens from Rumania. His name is being withheld for obvious reasons.

"At present, there are more than 15,000 Armenians in Rumania, the majority of them living in Bucharest, Constanta, and Galati. The Communists have assumed full control of all the national and religious institutions belonging to the Armenian community. In general, the Rumanians do not look favorably upon the Armenians. The reason for this ill feeling is that the Armenian Communists held der astrations in several Rumanian cities to welcome the occupying forces of the Red Army.

"The situation in Rumania is extremely distressing. The Russians have drained the resources of the country, ravishing everything, so that even oil is difficult to obtain. All available commodities are distributed under a stringent system of rationing. Although a free market exists, the shops have scarcely anything to sell. The workers receive 125 drams (about one pound) of bread per person per day. A lack of adequate nutrition pervades the entire country. The houses and other property of the rich have been seized. Only recently, the government issued new money, which supersedes and nullifies the old. Under the provisions of this action, 100 old lei may be exchanged for one we lei. This means economic ruin for the country.

"Apparently, Foreign Minister Ana Pauker still stands in good stead. She is generally considered to be an intimate friend of Stalin.

"The entire population of Rumania has placed its hopes on a new war. Whenever a plane appears in the sky, the people look up with anxiety.

"Even the Rumanian Communists have become disillusioned. But they dare not raise their voice ... Rumors and stories of guerrilla activities are increasingly being spread throughout the land. The Rumanian people hate Communism and the USSR and are patiently awaiting liberation."

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